Under sub-title 'Right to Information' the Report concludes that freedom of the press and access to information is key to transparency and accountability. The experiences of countries such as India that have progressively provided a legal basis for the right to information can prove extremely useful in this regard.

IIT in Kerala

*115. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala Government has forwarded a proposal for setting up of an IIT in that State;

(b) if so, whether the location for the proposed IIT has been identified;

(c) whether the competent officials of the Ministry have visited the proposed site;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the approval for the proposal has been granted; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (f) The Government of Kerala had submitted a proposal for the setting up of a satellite campus of IIT, Madras in Palakkad, Kerala and to convert it later into a full fledged IIT. Officials of IIT Madras had also met the Chief Minister of Kerala on 08.08.2006 to discuss the issue. The Government have, however, taken a decision that a large satellite campus of an IIT with regular Bachelors and Masters programmes amount to setting up of a new IIT and should be avoided. The Ministry, however, have no objection to the setting up of small extension centres by IITs outside their main campuses, which are devoted to continuing education, diploma courses, finishing schools, incubation programmes etc. Even in such cases, proposals would have to be referred to the Government for approval.

Funds for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

*116. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to sanction more funds under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan during the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) The Eleventh Plan outlays for centrally sponsored schemes like

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan are finalized by the Planning Commission. This exercise has not been completed by the Planning Commission, so far.

Setting up of food parks

†*117. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up thirty food parks in the country, for providing better prices to farmers for their produce, under food processing industries;

(b) if so, the places where these food parks would be set up; and

(c) the steps taken to promote horticulture produces and floriculture and their processing, in addition to traditional farming in backward regions like Vidharbha in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI), has provided financial assistance to fifty six (56) food parks in the country upto 31st March, 2007. A Statement indicating locations of food parks is enclosed (*See* below).

MFPI has submitted a revamped scheme to Planning Commission, which envisages providing financial assistance for setting up of thirty mega Food Parks in the country during Eleventh Five Year Plan period. The scheme is project oriented, not location specific. The scheme aims to provide a mechanism to bring together farmers, processors and retailers and link agricultural production to the market so as to ensure maximization of value addition, minimize wastages and improve farmers' income. Ministry has awarded a pre-feasibility study for identification of locations for five Mega Food Parks initially at five regions.

Ministry of Agriculture has launched National Horticulture Mission as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for holistic growth of the horticulture sector through an area based regionally differentiated strategies which includes research, technology promotion, extension, post-harvest management, processing and marketing, in consonance with comparative advantage of each State/region and its diverse agro-climatic features. The scheme is implemented in all the States including Maharashtra, except the North Eastern States, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand for which a separate Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture exists. The National Horticulture Board (NHB) has sanctioned 5278 projects and an amount of Rs. 94.44 crore has been released under the scheme in Maharashtra including Vidharbha region since 2001-02.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.